GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1071
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
OPENING OF GOVERNMENT RETAIL DRUG OUTLETS
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of fife saving drugs have been increased in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to open Government retail drug outlets in every district of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the districts selected for the purpose;and

(e) the time by which the said outlets are likely to be opened?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES(SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) The Drugs(Prices Control)Order,1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs.There are no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulation containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO,1995. As per ORG IMS monthly SSA report for the month of July,2008,increase in price with respect to prices in June,2008 have been found to be only in respect of 0.05% of packs as against the data available for 55748.

(b)to(e): Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings in consultation with the Government are exploring the possibility of opening retain drug outlets for promoting sales of generics in selected States to begin with.The matter is under active consideration/examination.